

THE SACRED HEART

BY

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I/E. FRONT DOOR - WOODEN COTTAGE IN WOODS - MORNING

A pale JULIET, 66, hunched over with a cane in each hand stands by the open front door of the wooden cottage situated in the woods.

SAM,, well toned for 68 wears, dresses in woodcutters gear, stands on the porch. He takes an axe off a nearby rack and kisses Juliet.

SAM

Ya rest now. Be back before ya know it.

Juliet faintly smiles through her pain.

JULIET

Invite John for dinner, Sam. I am sure he's missing his home cooked meals.

SAM

Ya're not up to it, Juliet.

JULIET

Nonsense.

SAM

OK pumpkin. If ya say so.

Juliet smiles. Sam walks off, axe over his shoulder.

EXT. CLEARING

JOHN, late 60's, wears brace type overalls. He and Sam cross a small clearing and head for the denser part of the woods. Axes over their shoulders.

SAM

Last job for me! I'm hangin' my axe after this lot!

JOHN

Why? Ya have heaps of good years left in ya.

SAM

Need to spend more time with Juliet. She's getting weaker. The doc thinks a change of scenery might do 'er good. A sea change. Ya know.

JOHN

Yeah, shoulda done that with ROSE.

SAM

Sorry mate, didn't mean to stir
ol' memories.

JOHN

Nuh it's OK! Is getting easier.
ts'been two years now. Missa
heaps though.

John stops in his tracks and looks around then ponders.
They stand at the end of the clearing.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Ya know...

John looks and point to the stumps that remain in the
clearing.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Rose and me carved our initials
around 'ere many years ago.

SAM

We did too.

Sam point to the denser part of the woods.

SAM (CONT'D)

t'sin 'ere somewhere. Did it on
our first date.

JOHN

Guess us country fellas are just
foolish romantics.

They CHUCKLE and enter the woods.

EXT. DENSE WOOD

Five trees are marked with a yellow cross. They near the
first marked tree.

SAM

Wonder what this damn disease is.
I thought we had eradicated it
two years ago in that clearing!

John drops his axe, pulls out a pair of gloves from his
deep pockets, puts them on, takes the axe and swings at the
tree.

JOHN

Might as well start with this
one.

Sam wonders off. After a few swings John looks around.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 hoy? What ya doin? easier if we
 tackle this giant together ya
 know.

(Beat)
 Ya hear me?

SAM
 It's around 'ere somewhere. These
 babies have grown heaps in 50
 years.

John laughs.

JOHN
 Ya'll never find it.

John swings his axe. Sam keeps looking. Moments later Sam
 is seen clearing moss of a tree with his flick knife.

SAM
 I found it!

John looks up and smiles.

JOHN
 Great! Now get over 'ere and
 help!

Sam, elated, heads back and helps Sam chops the opposite
 side of the tree.

SAM
 I'll have to show Juliet.

John glances over towards the tree.

JOHN
 Doubt it. It's marked.

CHARLIE, PETER, two woodsmen in their 40's, dressed in
 overalls, carrying axes and a long two man saw, approach.

Sam and John stop chopping and exchange handshakes.

CHARLIE
 Hia fellas! how many diseased
 ones today?

Sam takes a quick glance at his tree.

SAM
 Four.

JOHN
 Five!
 (looks to Sam)
 (MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

It needs to come down Sam.

PETER

Well which is it? Four or five?

JOHN

Five! But Sam's sacred love heart
is on that tree.

CHARLIE

(jovially)

Shit hey. What a shame.

All look to each other holding back laughter.

Charlie and Peter head for that tree. Sam has a last look,
shakes his head in dismay and continues chopping.

All falls quiet except the sounds of the axes and manual
saw.

EXT. CLEARING - LATE AFTERNOON

Sam proudly holds a small slab, in his arms. A heart
surrounds the initials S.P Loves J.D. John walks by his
side.

SAM

Juliet will love this.

(To John)

Ya know, father use to say that
trees were magical. Carve yar
loved ones initial on it and
they would be forever protected
from harm.

JOHN

Sounds like an old wives tale
mate.

SAM

Yeah. Oh, almost forgot! Juliet
wants ya over for dinner tonight.
Insisted she did. Said ya were in
need of a home cooked meal.

JOHN

She's a treasure. Certainly won't
pass up that offer. I'll get
cleaned up and be right over.

Sam and John head off in two different directions.

EXT. PORCH - WOODEN CABIN IN WOODS

John walks up to the cabin. Sam sits on the Porch's steps the slab placed on his lap. He carves deeper into the letter "S" with a small flick knife.

JOHN
Hey? What ya doin'?

Sam continues.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Sam?

Sam looks up, eyes swollen with tears.

SAM
Juliet's dead!

JOHN
What ya on about!?

SAM
Dad was right "a tree falls in
the wood" and the magic dies.

Sam stops carving.

SAM (CONT'D)
She's dead.

John speechless and shocked, places his hand on Sam's arm. Sam is in tears. John's eyes well.

SAM (CONT'D)
Can't ya see. It's the same thing
that happened to Rose. She died
because yo sacred tree was
chopped down and was ill 'cause
it was diseased.

Sam tosses the slab in frustration.

SAM (CONT'D)
The magic died with the tree,
John.

Both look to the slab.